

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 BIB-01 NIC-01 NEA-06 SAM-01

SAB-01 OMB-01 EA-06 ARA-06 OES-03 AEC-05 ORM-01 SR-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5636

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18934

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, UR

SUBJ: SOVIETS ASSESS 29TH UNGA

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET COMMENTATORS ON THE 29TH UNGA HAVE HIGHLIGHTED THE SIGNIFICANCE OF DETENTE TO THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE. DISARMAMENT ISSUES, INCLUDING MOSCOW'S PET PROPOSALS ON ENMOD AND WDC, WERE DISCUSSED FAVORABLY, AS WAS THE RESOLUTION ON THE DEFINITION OF AGGRESSION. THE SOVIETS RESTATED THEIR KNOWN POSITIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND CYPRUS, AND SEVERAL OTHER OLD ISSUES, BUT FAILED TO MENTION ANY OF THE URGENT NEW QUESTIONS FACING THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND REFRAINED FROM ANY CRITICISM OF THIRD WORLD POSITIONS. MFA INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS DIVISION CHIEF ISRAELYAN, SPEAKING TO A WESTERN

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DIPLOMAT, SEEMED UNCONCERNED ABOUT "THIRD WORLD"

BLOC VOTING AND THE BENDING OF UN RULES FOR POLITICAL PURPOSES. HE FELT THAT THE MOOD AT THIS GA WAS BETTER THAN IT HAD BEEN TWO YEARS AGO. END SUMMARY.

2. THE SOVIT PRESS HAS CARRIED A NUMBER OF COMMENTARIES IN THE PAST FEW DAYS ON THE 29TH UNGA, ALL OF WHICH STRESS THE SAME THEMES, USUALLY IN THE SAME ORDER. THE MOST AUTHORITATIVE OF THESE WAS BY ISRAELYAN, PRAVDA DECEMBER 20. AFTER TICKING OFF THE STATISTICS OF THE SESSION, ISRAELYAN POINTED TO DETENTE AS "THE CENTRAL THREAD RUNNING THROUGH THE ENTIRE SESSION." HE CLAIMED THAT THE UN MEMBERS -- EXCEPT FOR TROUBLEMAKERS LIKE THE "MAOISTS" AND THE CHILEAN JUNTA -- WELCOMED THE PROGRESS OF DETENTE.

3. ON ISSUES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO THE 29TH UNGA, ISRAELYAN FIRST DISCUSSED DISARMAMENT. HE HAILED THE OVERWHELMING PASSAGE OF THE SOVIET ENVIRONMENTAL MODIFICATION (ENMOD) PROPOSAL AND CLAIMED THAT MOSCOW'S IDEA OF A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE (WDC) HAD "RECEIVED WIDE SUPPORT," AS SHOWN BY THE DECISION TO ESTABLISH A SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO RECOMMEND FURTHER STEPS TOWARD CONVENING A WDC. ON NUCLEAR TESTING AND NUCLEAR FREE ZONES (NFZ), ISRAELYAN TOOK REFUGE BEHIND A STATEMENT OPPOSING TESTING AND FAVORING NON-PROLIFERATION, BUT HE DID NOT COMMENT ON NFZS AS SUCH.

4. DISCUSSING WORLD TROUBLE SPOTS, ISRAELYAN HAILED THE INVITATION TO ARAFAT BUT CAREFULLY RESTATED MOSCOW'S OWN VERSION OF WHAT A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT SHOULD INCLUDE -- E.G., ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ALL TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN LEGITIMATE RIGHTS. ON CYPRUS, HE CLAIMED THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF "MANY" SOCIALIST AND NON-ALIGNED STATES FAVORED A UN-SPONSORED CONFERENCE ON CYPRUS, BUT HE REFRAINED FROM NAMING THOSE WHO DISAGREED.

5. ROUNDING OUT HIS CATALOGUE, ISRAELYAN MENTIONED:
(1) THE DISCUSSION OF THE WORLD ECONOMIC SITUATION,
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WHICH HE SAYS TOOK ON AN "ANTI-IMPERIALIST CHARACTER";
(2) THE GRANTING OF OBSERVER STATUS TO CEMA (THE EEC WAS NOT MENTIONED); (3) THE LIQUIDATION OF COLONIALISM, INCLUDING THE PROGRESS TOWARD SELF-RULE IN THE PORTUGUESE COLONIES AND THE DECISION TO EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA; (4) THE CALLS FOR THE CHILEAN JUNTA TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS; (5) THE SUPPORT -- ALLEGEDLY GREATER THAN LAST YEAR'S --FOR THE RESOLUTION CALLING

FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES UNDER THE UN FLAG FROM SOUTH KOREA; AND (6) THE PASSAGE OF THE RESOLUTION ON THE DEFINITION OF AGGRESSION.

6. OTHER PRESS COMMENTARIES INCLUDE IZVESTIYA DECEMBER 18, PRAVDA DECEMBER 19, PRAVDA'S WEEKLY REVIEW, DECEMBER 22, ZA RUBEZHOM DECEMBER 20 AND NEW TIMES DECEMBER 20. NEW TIMES ALSO CARRIED A SEPARATE ARTICLE BY B. CHIZHOV ON THE "DEFINITION OF AGGRESSION," WHICH HAILED THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE UN ACTION AND RECOUNTED SOVIET SUPPORT FOR SUCH A RESOLUTION SINCE 1933 -- A YEAR BEFORE THE USSR BECAME A MEMBER OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS.

7. WHEN FRG AMBASSADOR SAHM CALLED ON ISRAELYAN ON DECEMBER 17 HE HEARD MUCH THE SAME EVALUATION OF THE 29TH GA INCLUDING THE OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF DETENTE. TO SAHM'S CONCERN OVER THE SOUTH AFRICA AND PALESTINE DECISIONS, ISRAELYAN SAID THAT SUCH QUESTIONS CANNOT BE DISCUSSED IN "AN EMPTY ROOM." MUCH FRUSTRATION HAD BUILT UP AMONG THIRD WORLD STATES OVER THEIR INABILITY TO INFLUENCE DEVELOPMENTS ON EITHER ISSUE, SAID ISRAELYAN. PERHAPS THE GA'S ACTIONS WERE NOT STRICTLY ACCORDING TO THE RULES, ISRAELYAN ACKNOWLEDGED, BUT THEY WERE "POLITICALLY JUSTIFIED." THE U.S., HE SAID, HAD OVER-REACTED TO THESE DECISIONS. THE SOVIETS, BY CONTRAST, WERE ACCUSTOMED TO BEING IN THE MINORITY AT THE UN, HE SAID, SO NOW THEY ENJOY BEING IN THE MAJORITY. ISRAELYAN SAID THAT HE FOUND THE MOOD AT THE UN TO BE MUCH BETTER THAN IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO. THE ONLY SOUR NOTES, HE SAID, WERE CHINA AND CHILE.

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8. COMMENT: THE EMPHASIS ON DETENTE REFLECTS GENERAL SOVIET COMMENTARY ON THE WORLD SCENE. BUT IN THE SPECIFIC CONTEXT OF THE UN IT SEEMS SOMEWHAT CONDESCENDING BY POINTING OUT THAT THE MAIN EVENTS IN WORLD AFFAIRS ARE HAPPENING ELSEWHERE. THE UN, IN THESE COMMENTARIES, MERELY BASKS IN THE GLOW. THE OTHER NOTABLE FEATURE IS THAT NONE OF THESE COMMENTARIES MENTIONS SUCH GLOBAL ISSUES AS FOOD AND POPULATION WHICH THE UN HAS MADE ATTEMPTS TO DEAL WITH. THE ISSUES WHICH ARE DISCUSSED ARE, FOR THE MOST PART, OLD ONES OR NEW VERSIONS OF OLD ONES ON WHICH MOSCOW'S VIEWS ARE ALREADY WELL-KNOWN. AND SOVIET COMMENTATORS HAVE CHOSEN NOT TO CRITICIZE, EITHER EXPLICITLY OR IMPLICITLY, LDC POSITIONS AT THE 29TH UNGA. IN FACT ISRAELYAN'S COMMENTS INDICATE THAT THE USSR INTENDS TO CONTINUE

SUPPORTING THE LDCS ON ISSUES WHICH ANTAGONIZE THE
U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN COUNTRIES.
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